

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on July 21, 2022;

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; William A. Worthy, Jr.; David Laplante
Stephen W. Arnold

Member Absent: Walter M. O. Steere, III

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; G. Treml, Director of Public works; G. Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police; John Luszcz, Director Human Services; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone present wished to speak on agenda items.

None

V. Public Hearings

A. Budget FY 2022-2023 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this public hearing is being held as part of the process to bring our budget for the next fiscal year to our Referendum on August 16, 2022. Councilor Reichert stated that the hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on June 23rd and July 21st.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor Reichert asked A. Muccino to come forward to explain the differences from the budget approved for public hearing on April 21, 2022, for the original referendum, from the budget proposed this evening.

Councilor Reichert stated that before the final budget is adopted for a vote at the Financial Town Referendum the Council can propose and vote on amendments at the next meeting. Councilor Reichert stated that the budget will then be adopted at that meeting, August 4th.

A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated four changes which included the following: an increase to the meal site coordinator position wages in order to attract a better candidate; a \$13,000 increase to the Recreation Dept. For temporary positions budgeted to coordinate to the current minimum wage rates; an increase amount to be taken from surplus in the amount of \$576,572 to the unrestricted fund

balance; and, and increase to the Gloucester School Department for future operations in the amount of \$181,108.

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak to please state your name for the record when called to the podium.

Councilor Laplante asked for clarification as to the advertised tax rate and the now proposed tax rate. A. Muccino stated that there were two changes made by the state after the ad . A. Muccino stated that the changes are that the motor vehicle tax can no longer be collected and the state is not making the town whole. A. Muccino stated that the ability to tax solar installations has changed and it is not in the town's favor.

Walter Steere, resident, asked the number the tax base increased due to new buildings. A. Muccino stated that there is growth in the town (he can provide the number) and there is also a generous exemption policy in town. W. Steere asked for the reason that the tax rate that was published was different. A. Muccino stated that the first ad of \$18.54 did not include the change the state made in the car tax. A. Muccino stated that there were no other changes. Councilor Reichert asked if the budget was short due to FM Global and A. Muccino stated it was short about \$600,000. Councilor Reichert stated that the town is operating under FY 2022 budget. W. Steere asked about the purchase of a new snowplow that was listed in the FY 2023 budget which has not yet been approved. W. Steere and G. Trembl DPW Director exchanged words. W. Steere stated that there is a process that needs to be followed.

C. Mathieu, resident, asked if FM Global challenged the amount of the tax bill and in case they did file a challenge would an amount be set aside. C. Mathieu asked if the total amount of money being received from the state as to reimbursement for the motor vehicle tax was sufficient compared to originally budgeted. C. Mathieu asked if any considerations were being made if the number of school resource officers and/or security officers were to be included in the schools; and, whether any more money could be used from surplus , perhaps down to 14-15% which would still be above the 12% mandated by Charter. D. Igliazzi, Town solicitor, described the process for a challenge and conceded that an amount could be set aside. A. Muccino stated the total amount being received from the state for motor vehicle reimbursement and stated that the amount would not be sufficient. Chief Delprete stated that the school resource officers are paid by the Region. Councilor Laplante stated that the discussion of security officers at the school would be discussed later in this night's agenda.

Councilor Reichert **DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.**

Councilor Reichert stated again that the budget will be adopted by the Town Council on August 4th and then voted on by our residents on August 16th.

- B. Kennel License - Discussion and/or Action
 - Applicant: Matthew & Jerika Verrier d/b/a Verrier Danes
 - Owner: Colby Ventures LLC
 - Location: 138 Tourtellot Hill Road further described as AP 14 Lot 43
 - Applicants are seeking a Kennel License to breed dogs

(Special Use Permit granted by Zoning Board, April 2022)

Councilor Reichert stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on July 7th, 2022

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor Reichert asked if the applicant present to explain the proposal.

Councilor Reichert stated the following for the record which he read as follows: At the Zoning Board meeting, of April 28, 2022, a Special Use Permit request was considered to allow this use on the property in question. Following the hearing the following motion was made by the Zoning Board:

At the close of the hearing, a MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Joseph Fogarty to approve the application of Matthew & Jerika Verrier, applicants and Colby Ventures, owner, property located at 138 Tourtellot Hill Road, further described as Assessor's Plat 14, Lot 43 in an A-4 zone. Applicants seek a Special Use Permit in accordance with Chapter 350, Article II, §350-11, Table of Use Regulations, Section I, subsection 3-Commercial raising of animals or fowl, kennels for the raising, boarding or sale of dogs, cats or other fur bearing animals.

Applicants seek an approval of a Special Use Permit for a kennel to breed dogs. In making this decision the Board imposes the following restrictions:

1. The applicants are limited to a maximum of six adult dogs.
2. The applicants are limited to the following breed: Great Dane.
3. The applicants must arrange for weekly waste disposal for the dog waste. It cannot be added to the pile of horse waste on the property.

MOTION was seconded by Member Christopher Harkness. The Motion carried by unanimous vote 5-0 (Members (Meinertz, Fogarty, Harkness, Kelman, Martone voting in favor)
(end of Zoning motion)

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak to please state your name for the record when called to the podium.

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked if the property was private property. M. Verrier , applicant, stated that the property is private property and that he and his family will be living at the property within the next month. Councilor Arnold stated that the applicant has support of the neighbors.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to GRANT a Kennel License, Breeding, to Applicants: Matthew & Jerika Verrier d/b/a Verrier Danes; Owner: Colby Ventures LLC; Location of property: 138 Tourtellot Hill Road further described as AP 14 Lot 43 contingent upon stipulations placed by the Zoning Board in their motion of April 28, 2022 granting the Special Use Permit and upon all

conditions of licensing; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 2, 2022 & Regular meeting of June 16, 2022
- B. Tax Assessors Additions and Abatements - June 2022
- C. Finance Director's Report - June 2022
- D. Pole Grant- Joe Sarle Road- Installation of new customer Pole 8-1

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of June 2, 2022 and the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 16, 2022; No ADDITIONS to the 2021 Tax Roll; **to APPROVE** the ADDITIONS to the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,525.29; the 2019 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,961.85; the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,902.00; the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,872.38; the 2016 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,667.96; the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,678.91; the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,652.35; the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,881.87; to **APPROVE the ABATEMENTS** to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$55.32; and the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$151.41; to **APPROVE** the Finance Director's Report of June 2022; and to **GRANT** the Pole Grant for the installation of a new customer Pole #8-1 Joe Sarle Road; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Economic Development Commission
 - 1. Position #4 -Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Budget Board
 - 1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that we have received a recommendation from the Finance Director and Chair of the Budget Board to fill the position with resident Jake Desilets. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a talent bank application.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Jake Desilets to the Budget Board, Position #3, for an unexpired term to expire 12/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Parade Committee
 - 1. Alternate #1
 - 2. Alternate #2
 - 3. Position # 8
 - 4. Position # 9

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has requested this item be removed from the table at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair will work with the Town Clerk to determine if the Board should ask the Council for an amendment to the charge of the Parade Committee. Councilor Reichert stated that the make up of the members, alternates, and ad hoc members needs to be reviewed for the successful make up of the board going forward.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to REMOVE from the Table item “c. Parade Committee, Alternate 1 &2, and Position 8 & 9”; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. American Rescue Plan Act Funds
 - 1. INTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Land Acquisition

Councilor Reichert stated that Council should be ready to act on this item soon.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE ARPA Funds, 1. Internal Program, a. Land Acquisition; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Internal Request: Accounting Information System software for Finance Dept. - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this item has been carried over for some time. Councilor Reichert asked if Council wished to set aside the funds, hold off on the request and bring it back after other decisions have been made, or remove from the table for no further consideration.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that he feels this is an item that is needed but is not sure as to how time sensitive it is to get going. A. Muccino stated that the this is a huge project to move all the finance data from one system to a new one so the sooner the project can be started the better. A. Muccino stated that the deadline to complete the project is 2025. Councilor Reichert asked the cost of the system and A. Muccino stated 76, 000.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to allocate funds for accounting information system software for Finance Department

Councilor Worthy withdrew his motion

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to allocate \$76,000 out of ARPA funds for Accounting Information Software System for the Finance Department; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. EXTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: July 20, 2022
Re: ARPA Projects – Marketing Materials

The Town recently completed the Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan. One of the primary recommendations of the plan was to create a shared marketing campaign to support all businesses, connecting them with residents and visitors. Led by the Town's Economic Development

Commission, this project will use \$25,000 in ARPA funds to engage in a Place Branding exercise to develop a brand image, increasing the potential to attract residents, bolster business, and boost tourism. Place Branding helps to tell the outside world how Gloucester is unique and why it is worth investing in, either by a single visit or as a place to work and live. When a community has a polished presence and appears well organized and professional, it lets both residents and the outside world know it's open for business.

I am happy lead this project in partnership with the Economic Development Commission and be the responsible party for the administration and management of this effort. This type of project has been very successful in other municipalities, particularly in Conway, South Carolina, where Ashley Sarji and I collaborated on a similar effort. I believe it will provide a huge benefit to not only Chepachet Village but the Town as a whole

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE a set aside of ARPA Funds in the amount of \$25,000 for the Economic Development Commission for a Place Branding project ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Gloucester Little League - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that this matter should be tabled procedurally because two councilors will have to recuse.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the consideration of a set aside of ARPA Funds for Gloucester Little League, Acotes Field improvements ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Public Works - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointment - Driver/Laborer I

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has not received a recommendation for Council at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment of a Public Works, Driver/Laborer I; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. American Rescue Plan Act Funds

1. Update request to previous grant by Town Council - IT - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a status report from Matt Floor on previously approved projects. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received that report in detail because some include a request for additional funds due to increased costs, also a new request is included for consideration:

1. **Police Station security cameras, \$55,250 approved 1/11/22. Request for additional funds in the amount of \$32,000**

Councilor Reichert read the update which was included as follows: All of the equipment has been selected and verified for availability. This project has been quoted by a vendor under the State of RI MPA #395 and we are at the point of execution pending the increase in funding. This project needs to happen sooner rather than later to avoid potential liability issues at the PD. Ready to launch. FYI: This request was removed from FY23 Capital Request and funded with ARPA Funds.
(End of update)

Discussion: Councilor Laplante asked why there was an increase. Chief Delprete stated (unintelligible) andthis is a necessary update and described the benefits of the upgrade. Councilor Arnold asked how long the equipment would last. Chief Delprete stated the technology equipment is very old.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside an additional \$32,000 for ARPA Project #11, Police Station - Security Cameras; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. **Mobile radio upgrades - \$100,000 approved 1/11/22. Need an additional \$16,000**

Councilor Reichert read the included update as follows : We have completed our demo of equipment using radios provided by RIEMA and have selected the equipment. The radios have been priced under the State of Rhode Island MPA#419. Motorola pricing has increased since the last budgetary estimate. We are ready to execute this project immediately before any additional price

increases or the awful supply chain interruptions. Ready to launch.

FYI: This request was removed from FY23 Capital Request and funded with ARPA Funds.

(End of update)

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked if this was the same situation. Chief Delprete stated it is the same - shortages and rising costs. Chief Delprete described the equipment and stated they would be ready to buy once approved.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside an additional \$16,000 for ARPA Project #12, Police Station - Mobile Radio Upgrades; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Replace tower at police station for fire department VHF communications and fire alarm radio box system - \$150,000 approved 1/11/22.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council received an update from M. Floor which he read as follows:

This project remains a high priority because of the state of disrepair of the current tower. We have not taken action as far as execution, because of the concurrent project for improvements to the police station. **(The original 2019 Quote for the tower was 146,936.50, they estimate at a 20% increase on steel and labor)** This was a verbal “estimate” and I am getting an updated “official” quote from Industrial Communications and the tower manufacturer ROHN. The rebar costs for the tower footings have also increased substantially. As soon as I get the new number I will forward. If we have established a plan for the police station, and funding is good, I am ready to go all-in on the project. This could be completed within a 90-120 day time frame of the green light as I understand we are exempt from zoning restrictions.

This request was removed from FY23 Capital Request and funded with ARPA Funds.

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she received a preliminary number from M. Floor, IT Director, but there are still unanswered questions as to the police station itself. Chief Delprete stated that the expansion project was started a few years ago and costs have increased. Chief Delprete stated the tower project has been on board for about 7 years.

No Action Taken By Council

4. Additional request for funding:

DPW Radio System - Upgrades \$75,000

Councilor Reichert stated that Council had received an update from M. Floor which he read as follows: If there was an opportunity to add a project that directly impacts the Town of Gloucester,

before funds are spent on private/outside organizations, I would recommend using funds for upgrades to the DPW radio system. We had some intermittent failures of the DPW radio over the 4th of July weekend most likely due to the aging repeater or microwave. I also understand they could use some additional radios for equipment that does not currently have a radio installed. There are some programming issues that also need to be resolved. I have not yet engaged with a radio vendor because this project has not been approved/funded, but based on pricing from a similar job just completed we should be able to complete the work for approximately \$75,000. This would provide a new repeater, microwave link, base radio at PD, 4 mobile radios at DPW a tower crew and all programming. If this is something the Town has the appetite for, I can do all of the groundwork and get this going. We don't have to do this next week, but I think it makes sense to get ahead of it before it shows up in our budget unexpectedly.

(End of update0

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that this is an important piece of safety communication equipment for the town . Councilor Laplante asked the ARPA fund balance. Councilor Arnold stated 98,000 allocated tonight and ballpark 500,000 remaining. Councilor Arnold asked g. Treml if these would be transferable from one vehicle to another. G. Treml stated the equipment is transferable. Councilor Arnold also stated a concern that prices will keep increasing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to Set aside \$75,000 of ARPA funds for DPW Radio System - Upgrades; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

5. Update: **Fiber optic cable - \$100,000 approved 1/11/22**

Councilor Reichert stated that stated this is a great project with great benefit to the town.

No Action Taken By Council

2. Existing list of set asides- update and/or changes - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that the Planner has forwarded an update on pending internal projects previously funded by ARPA funds which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: July 20, 2022

Re: Internal ARPA Projects – Status Update

Below please find the status and costs of approved, internal ARPA projects:

Emergency Management

1. Light towers have been purchased and received - \$2,528 final cost

2. A purchase order has been issued for \$29,018.22 for the Gator. The trailer is awaiting bidding

from Finance

3. Notices have been sent to the owners of high hazard dams

Department of Public Works

1. All projects remain a priority and budgets remain on target

a. Roads/drainage - Cranberry Ridge Road - \$140,000

b. Roads/drainage - Jackson Schoolhouse Road -\$62,500

c. Roads/drainage - Lake View Drive - \$52,500

Police/IT

1. Refer to information provided by Matt Floor

Planning Department

1. Septic/Water Funds - \$200,000 – funding is proposed as match for two (2) pending grant applications.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

No Action Taken By Council

3. Discussion and/or Action on additional internal requests - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: July 20, 2022

Re: Internal ARPA Projects – Additional Requests

RIDEM generally requests applications for recreation development grants every two (2) years. This is the primary source of funding currently financing the improvements underway at Gloucester Memorial Park. It is anticipated that applications for new projects will be released in the Fall of 2023.

Large Recreation Development Grants are for a maximum of \$400,000 and require a local match of \$100,000. The Town could consider applying for funds for upgrades to Winsor Park.

Small Recreation Development Grants are for a maximum of \$100,000 and require a local match of \$25,000. The Town could consider applying for funds to further improve Gloucester Memorial Park, for example, Leja Field.

The Town can apply for more than one project. Several towns were awarded multiple grants in the last funding cycle.

To be eligible, the recreational facility should be owned and maintained by the municipality. Projects

that would significantly limit public access in the days or times that the facility is available to the public are ineligible. Further if no fees are charged to city/town residents, then fees cannot be charged to other RI residents. If fees are charged to city/town residents, then fees to non-residents of that city/town cannot be more than twice the city/town resident fee.

The Town Council could consider setting aside \$125,000 in ARPA funds to leverage an additional investment of \$500,000 in the Town's recreational facilities. Please note: the RIDEM recreation development program is a grant program and there is no guarantee of fund award.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that more investments need to be made in recreation areas and that the Town Planner has done an excellent job in finding grants. J. Fecteau stated that the town has an account for matching funds for grants and outlined how it could work. J. Fecteau stated that the town created restrictive accounts for match ups with grants. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that the town is running out of ARPA funds. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that the requests can't all be funded and if funding this now would make land acquisition out. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that the land acquisition funds were already set aside. A. Muccino stated that program administration may contain some money to reallocate into the ARPA fund .

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Set aside \$ 75,000 of ARPA funds for use towards a match when applying for 2023 D.E.M. Recreation Grants- For Upgrades to Town owned Recreational facilities; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. Fire Department ARPA Funds set aside - Mobile Repeaters - Discussion and/or Action

Council has received information from Chief Waterman.

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that the Council has received a letter from Chief Waterman and it is in the Council's packet. Councilor Laplante read Chief Waterman's letter into the record:

July 15, 2022

To: William E. Reichert, President
Glocester Town Council

Reference: Chepachet, Harmony and West Glocester Fire Department's Vehicle Repeater Testing

Good day President Reichert and members of the Town Council:

At the April 7th, 2022 Town Council meeting the council had requested that the three fire departments have a survey done by the radio communications company (Goosetown Communications). This survey would be a geographic radio system's test throughout the three districts. The test would be done using the current portable radios that we carry and a vehicle repeater system (provided by Goosetown Communications). On Thursday, June 30th, 2022 Peter Harrison from Goosetown Communications along with Chepachet Chief Huestis and myself drove throughout all three fire districts performing multiple radio tests in each district, the attached is our findings. During this testing we also found that the current radio tower located on Willie Woodhead Road site is not working per the original design due to the tower never being completed and the repeater being installed at approximately 140ft which is below the current tree line. In keeping with the original Grant request, we will be using the grant monies for up-grades to our current emergency radio system which could include the possible relocation of the Willie Woodhead repeater system. If that is done we would use the remaining funds to a purchase a few less vehicle repeaters and portable radios. By upgrading the system, we would be providing a more reliable and much safer radio system to our First Responders. It would also eliminate the dead spots listed below and others in the town. If you have any questions, please contact Chief Huestis, Chief Labutti or me.
Sincerely,

Richard A. Waterman, Chief
(end of memo)

Page 2:
Vehicle Repeater Testing attached.

Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that he would like more information as to the viability of the tower at Willie Woodhead Road as it can't be raised and/or the viability of leasing tower space at Jeromioth Hill. Councilor Laplante stated that the evidence presented by the fire department survey test seems to suggest that they work.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the internal request for ARPA funds made by the three fire departments for mobile repeaters for more information; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Armed security in Glocester schools - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: chief Delprete stated this issue was discussed at the school committee meetings. Chief Delprete stated that the RI Interlocal Trust would insure only Glocester Police officers and not retirees. Chief Delprete outlined the procedure where those retired police officers could be hired if they were re certified which also includes training. Chief Delprete stated an estimated cost of \$85,000 for both elementary schools . Chief Delprete stated that there may be some equipment that may need to be purchased. Councilor Laplante stated that he spoke with the Trust attorney and read a letter

received from the Trust attorney into the record. Councilor explained how the process to certify a retired police officer to become a security officer in Gloucester at the Gloucester school. Councilor Laplante described the possible way the program could be funded through reimbursement from the schools. Councilor Laplante stated there is an avenue to do this program at a cost of approximately 42,000 for the first year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to authorize Chief Delprete and the A. Muccino, Finance Director to develop an armed guard program in the Gloucester Elementary Schools;

Chief Delprete asked to include d. Zimmerman, Human Resources Director

Councilor Laplante AMENDED his MOTION to also include D. Zimmerman, seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- C. Purchasing Goods and/or Services
 - 1. Bid award recommendation from Board of Contracts & Purchases
 - a. IFB 2022-04 Hot Mix Asphalt - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a recommendation for the award of IFB 2022-04 Hot Mix Asphalt which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council, Bill Reichert, President
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Re: IFB2022-04 Hot Mix Asphalt
Date: 07/20/2022

With Council approval, the Department of Public Works with assistance from the Finance Office, went back out to bid for Hot Mix Asphalt. The bid was advertised on the Town website as well as in the Valley Breeze Observer. The Town received (4) responses to the opportunity, bids were opened, in accordance with the notice to bidders, at a Board of Contract & Purchases meeting on 07/07/2022. Please refer to attachment 1 for a tabulation of the responses to the bid opportunity.

At the Board of Contracts & Purchases meeting on 07 /07, the Board voted to refer the bids to the Director of Public Works for review and recommendation to the Board.

The Board of Contracts & Purchases reconvened on July 14th and had received correspondence from the Director of Public Works recommending to award the bid to T. Miozzi, LLC noting that of the (4) respondents, Miozzi was the low bidder. The Board ultimately voted to recommend to the Council that the Council award to the low bidder, T. Miozzi, LLC.

Respectfully,

Adam R. Muccino
Finance Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AWARD IFB 2022-04 Hot Mix Asphalt to T. Miozzi, LLC at the bid price of \$95.00/Ton-3" & \$97.00/Ton-4" compacted, berm \$1.00 per lineal square foot; and tack coat \$.55 per square yard; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Seeking authorization to solicit bids for the appraisal of real property (land, buildings, tangibles) at a specific commercial location within the Town of Gloucester - Discussion and/or Action

A. Muccino stated that the bid materials are ready and it will be a two part process.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to solicit bids for the appraisal of real property (land, buildings, tangibles) at a specific commercial location within the Town of Gloucester, said property known as the FM Global property; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: A. Muccino explained that he hopes to have a finer point of numbers for Council but would like to get the process started.

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

- 1. Recreation Department - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. 2022 Summer Recreation Programs - Appt. of Employees- Parks and Grounds - Retroactive to June 20, 2022

Councilor Reichert stated that at Council’s last meeting, the appointment of Parks and Grounds employees was supposed to be made and it was not. Councilor Reichert stated that tonight, Council should appoint these employees retroactive back to the planned effective date.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT to the position of Parks & Grounds:

Austin Amaral	\$12.25	Retroactive start date of June 20, 2022
Robert Morin	\$12.25	Retroactive start date of June 20, 2022

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Ratification of Additional Summer Recreational job Appointments

Councilor Rechert stated that appointments were made to fill all positions for the beginning of summer programs. Councilor Reichert stated that one of the appointments made did not work out and the Recreation Director had to quickly fill that position and an additional position to be prepared for the start of summer programs. Councilor Reichert stated that the Director received a consensus of the Council to hire two replacement employees and those positions now need to be ratified.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to RATIFY the appointment of Owen Machan, LIT (Lifeguard in training), at the rate of \$12.25 and Katherine Helly, Tennis Aid at the rate of \$12.25; these appointments shall be retroactive back to June 20, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Additional Summer Recreational job Appointments (if needed)

No additional appointments needed.

2. Senior Center

a. Resignation - Kitchen Aide - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Senior Center Director explaining the resignation of Suzanne Brouillard from her position as Kitchen Aide.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ACCEPT the resignation of Suzanne Brouillard from the position of Kitchen Aide; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has also received a memo from the HR Director which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Members, Gloucester Town Council
FROM: Don Zimmerman, Acting Director of Human Resources
SUBJECT: Appointment
DATE: July 12, 2022

As you are aware from the memorandum by Senior Center Director Melissa Bouvier, the newly

appointed Kitchen Aide unexpectedly resigned effective June 28, 2022.

Melissa has requested authorization to advertise for and recruit a replacement effective June 28.

In the meantime, Melissa has arranged for Jackie Aelig, who resigned as the regular part-time Kitchen Aide effective July 1, 2022, to remain on the payroll as an on-call option once the summer is over and she has availability again.

I am recommending the appointment of Jackie as an on-call Kitchen Aide at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective July 22, 2022. Thank you.

(End of memo)

- b. Ratification: Authorize process to seek replacement for recommendation to Council - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RATIFY the authorization to seek a replacement employee for the Gloucester Senior Center; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. On-call Kitchen Aide

Councilor Reichert stated that the appointment of Jackie Aelig as On-call Kitchen Aide has been recommended.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Jackie Aelig to the position of On-call Kitchen Aide at the hourly rate of \$15, effective July 22, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Part time Kitchen Aide

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the appointment of a Part time Kitchen Aide and/or an equivalent employee for the Gloucester Senior Center kitchen; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Correction to Action taken on June 16, 2022 per: Employee Transfer from Town Clerk's Office to Finance Office - Clerk II - Discussion and/or Action (Correction to be retroactive to June 20, 2022)

Councilor Reichert stated that the motion to approve the transfer of an employee from the Town Clerk's Office to the Finance Office inadvertently named the employee as a Senior Clerk instead of a Clerk II.

Corrected MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Dawn Amaral to the position of Clerk II in the Finance Office. Said appointment is a transfer from the Clerk II position previously held in the Town Clerk's Office. This position allows said employee to maintain her bargaining unit seniority and employee benefits; salary shall remain the same at the rate of \$23.59 per hour; and transfer is effective June 20, 2022, seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. Authorization of change to position structure and union status for Administrative Police and IT Director Position - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council received a request from the Chief which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council
FROM: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
DATE: July 12, 2022
RE: Matthew Floor Salary Re-structure

This memorandum is being submitted to change the position structure for Police and IT Director Matthew Floor.

Under the direction of the Chief of Police he will continue his current investigative and administrative functions at the police department and he will continue to manage the Town's Cybersecurity program and Information Technology Department and oversee any employees hired within that department.

This position will be a non-union salaried position with an average of 56 hours worked per week throughout the year. There will be no overtime for this position (details excluded) and comp time only for police department call-outs, such as; special investigations, fatal accidents, and other assignments. The current job description for both positions remain in effect. As a police official and working for the Police Department he will remain in the ERSRI police/fire retirement plan with his entire salary included in his retirement. His vacation leave and sick leave will continue to mirror current police department practices.

For FY 22, the position was budgeted and compensated at \$129,300.85 as outlined below. I recommend this position be paid a salary of \$134,472.88 (4% increase) beginning in fiscal year 23. Future raises will mirror those of the police department. There will be no additional longevity or

holiday pay after this adjustment.

FY22 Salary	75,898.8
FY22 Longevity	2,846.21
FY22 Holiday pay	3,489.6
IT average (16hrs/week)	47,066.24
FY22 total	129,300.85
FY 23 recommended salary	134,472.88

Other than the FY23 raise, the budgetary impacts will be minimal as these funds are already budgeted and paid out between the Police and IT Departments. The Dispatch Union Steward has agreed that this Executive Administration Assistant Police position will be removed from the local LIUNA 1322 Union collective bargaining agreement.

I would further request that this change positional and salary change take effect after the current FY-2023 budget referendum is approved.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Laplante stated that the police department would be hard pressed to replace M. Floor as he is a bargain and that he wears different hats; highly intelligent, agreeable, detailed among other qualities. Councilor worthy asked how long he would stay. Chief Delprete stated that this timing is appropriate. Chief Delprete stated the number of hours M. Floor puts in as well as his expertise and valuable skill set. Chief Delprete stated that he is sought after by other towns and the private sector.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to AUTHORIZE the restructure of position for employee, Matthew Floor; as follows: This position will be a non-union salaried position with an average of 56 hours worked per week; current job description for both positions (investigative and administrative functions at the police department, management of the Town's Cybersecurity program and Information Technology Department, and oversight of any employees hired within that department) will remain in effect. M. Floor, as a police official, will remain in the ERSRI police/fire retirement plan with his entire salary included in his retirement. M. Floor's vacation leave and sick leave will continue to mirror current police department practices. Proposed salary for 2022/23 represents a 4% increase of current year salary and will be reflected in FY 22/23 budget; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert, Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Proposed Local Legislation

1. Financial Town Referendum 2022 ballot question re: Tax Stabilization Authorization - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Attorney David Igliazzi , Town Solicitor, can explain. Councilor Reichert stated that per RI General Law, for the town of Glocester to be able to offer Tax Stabilization agreements to future potential businesses, as incentive, the voters have to vote to give the authority to the Town Council to do so.

Councilor Reichert stated that if Council agrees a ballot question for the Financial Town Referendum can be prepared for approval on August 4TH .

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Solicitor and Town Clerk to prepare a Financial Town Referendum ballot question regarding Tax Stabilization Agreement authorization for final approval on August 4, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. General Election 2022 ballot question: Cannabis - Retail Sale - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received information regarding the consideration of adding a local referendum question to the General Election 2022 ballot.

Councilor Reichert stated that D. Igliazzi can explain.

Discussion: Attorney Igliazzi stated the legislature has passed an act for people to sell and cultivate cannabis. D. Igliazzi stated that the legislature gives the towns the ability to ask the electors if they want licenses in town . D. Igliazzi stated the town would still have the ability to regulate nuisance by ordinance. D. Igliazzi stated that he has worked with the Clerk to prepare a resolution authorizing a ballot question to present to the electors. J. Fecteau stated that, in accord with Secretary of State's office, most cities and towns are doing this process as to licensing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to AUTHORIZE the Town Solicitor to prepare a Resolution authorizing a General Election ballot question and final ballot language relative to the Cannabis - Retail Sale Act; seconded by Councilor Worthy

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Authorization for signature

1. .gov Domain Registration - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from Matt Floor asking for the Town Council President's signature on a request to register a .gov domain for the Town of Gloucester:

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the letter of authority to register the .gov domain for the Town of Gloucester; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Gloucester Housing Authority

Position #4 (expired term) - 5 year term to expire 7/2027

Councilor Reichert stated that this term is for the expired term of Linda Laliberte. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has indicated Ms. Laliberte wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REAPPOINT Linda Laliberte to the Gloucester Housing Authority, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Arnold summarized the observations and suggestions made by the Gloucester Recreation Commission about their visit to Leja Field. Councilor Arnold stated a lack of signage was brought up; the condition of the grass and the condition of the infield. Councilor Arnold stated the Commission was looking for a regular maintenance schedule which has already been done. Councilor Arnold went on to reference other repairs and fixes the Commission would like to see. Councilor Arnold stated one of the questions was if a bona fide volunteer could do work at the field. A. Muccino stated he believes if it is a bona fide volunteer then the Interlocal Trust covers them. R. Shields stated the group would also like to re-edge the field and one of the members has offered to bring the necessary

equipment. Councilor Arnold stated he wants to thank the commission for their work and further stated perhaps one of the members could come to a future meeting to discuss more of their requests.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council received the following correspondence:

1. Councilor Reichert acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding a claim against the town for damage to a golf cart window during the parade. Councilor Reichert stated the Trust has denied the claim.
2. Parade complaints- Councilor Reichert stated the council received a few complaints about the signs in the parade.
3. J. Tillinghast, resident, described the incident that resulted in damage to the dam caused by the heavy equipment. J. Tillinghast stated the Highway Department was working on the dam due to a complaint of a beaver problem at Saw Mill Pond.. J. Tillinghast stated he is part owner and does not mind the town doing repairs but felt a hydraulic excavator shouldn't be used. J. Tillinghast stated that DEM was going to access the situation and will get back to him. Councilor Reichert asked for the information to be forwarded to council upon receipt.
4. W. Leonard, resident, explained how he volunteered to fix the town pound (cornerstone) after it was damaged by a truck on the corner of Pound Road.. Mr. Leonard added that a resident, Jim White, offered to use his crane to set the top stones. W. Leonard asked about the possibility of preventing trucks from using Pound Road in order to avoid damage to this historic pound. Chief Delprete described a few incidents on that corner. J. Fecteau complimented W. Leonard for the beautiful job done . Councilor Laplante suggested the possibility of a no thru trucking sign by the correct procedure. Councilor Reichert stated this could be looked into.
5. Councilor Worthy read a correspondence he received from resident:

A. Demarco regarding the speed of cars on Spring Grove Road requesting a police presence to monitor as well as a few suggestions. Chief Delprete stated the police would monitor.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the certified emergency response team (CERT) is up to full strength with an influx of new volunteers. G. Mosca described the great job the volunteers did in the parade and at the fireworks. G. Mosca stated that he submitted a last request to FEMA for COVID expenses. G. Mosca stated that FEMA sent the request back for clarification as to the fire departments because they are not town employees. G. Mosca stated that he researched the issue and has sent a new letter requesting reimbursement which he feels FEMA will approve. G. Mosca would like the Council to know that there is a potential issue going forward because the fire departments are not town employees as they are basically subcontractors. G. Mosca suggests that some type of agreement between the

town and the fire departments showing a relationship may be good in case there is a disaster in the future where reimbursement is requested. D. Iglizzi asked how the amount of reimbursement was determined in the present situation . G. Mosca explained as did Councilor Laplante. Councilor Reichert suggested putting together a document to address this situation and G. Mosca and Councilor Laplante volunteered to work on it.

2. G. Treml, DPW Director, wished to recognize J. Cabral who is retiring after 37 years of good service.
3. J. Luszcz, Human Services Director, wanted to let the Council know that the van the town was going to purchase for his department is no long available, so he will need to begin that process again.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XII. Open Forum

None

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. **R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5)** Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public:
 1. Potential Acquisition of several parcels of land
- B. **R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2)** Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
 1. Police Collective Bargaining Agreement - Negotiations
 2. Potential Litigation - Complaints filed by Gloucester Dispatch seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN Closed Session; seconded by Councilor Laplante

AFTER Executive Session:

XIV. MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Reconvene Open Session - Disclose two (2) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Worthy, Arnold and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XV. MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Adjourn at 10:50 PM ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Worthy, Arnold and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED